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wherein each of the connectors is connected to one of the first and second walls, such that prior to placement of the block unit in a wall structure the first and second walls are securely positioned with respect to one another as opposite faces of a discrete, substantially rectangular block, each face having a face area;

wherein the connective structure is free of direct, structural connection to any wall of each adjacent block unit when the block unit is in a wall structure; and

wherein the connective structure comprises arms supporting the at least two connectors and said arms provide a thermal conduction path of limited vertical cross-sectional area relative to either wall face area.

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6. (Twice Amended) The block unit of claim 1, wherein the first wall and second wall each have an upper edge when connected by the connective structure and the connective structure comprises:

two end arms and a center arm;

wherein the center arm is vertically displaced with respect to the end arms to a position nearer the said upper edges of the first wall and second wall.

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17. (Thrice Amended) A connective structure for forming a discrete, preassembled, composite block unit for independent placement as a unit mortared with other laterally and vertically adjacent units to form a mortared, masonry wall structure, each block unit having a first wall and

a second wall, each with a face area and at least one of which is load-bearing for vertical loads, comprising:

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a plurality of elements forming arms and connectors for connecting the connective structure between the first wall and the second wall, said arms and connectors comprising at least one arm extending between the first and second walls and supporting at its opposed ends connectors, each connector with a compressible element for insertion into and frictional engagement with one of said first and second walls to securely position said walls with respect to one another as opposed faces;

wherein the connective structure is a non-masonry material and is free of direct, structural connection to any wall of each adjacent block unit when the block unit is in a wall structure; and

wherein said at least one arm provides a thermal conduction path of limited vertical cross-sectional area relative to either face area.

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35. (Thrice Amended) A discrete block unit for independent placement as a unit with other laterally and vertically adjacent units to form a mortared wall structure comprising:

a first wall and a second wall, at least one of which is made from a masonry material and capable of vertical load bearing and each of which has a connector formation and a vertical face area, each said wall having at least one mortar receiving surface for forming a mortar joint with said adjacent block units;

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a connective structure of non-masonry material positioned and connected between the first and second walls, said connective structure having at least one connector that engages the connector formation at the first wall and at least one connector that engages the connector formation at the second wall;

wherein the connective structure is free of direct, structural connection to any wall of each adjacent block unit when the block unit is in a wall structure; and

wherein the connective structure comprises arms supporting at least two connectors and said arms provide a thermal conduction path of limited vertical cross-sectional area relative to either wall face area.

Please add new claims 42-49 as follows:

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42. (New) A method for making a discrete, preassembled, composite block unit for independent placement as a unit with other laterally and vertically adjacent block units to form a mortared wall structure, comprising:

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providing a first wall and a second wall, at least one of which is load bearing for vertical loads and made from a first, masonry-type material, at least one of said walls having at least one vertical and one horizontal mortar joint surface for forming a mortar joint with at least two of the adjacent block units;

providing a connective structure formed of a second, non-masonry-type material and connected between the first and second walls, said connective structure having at least two connectors;

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connecting each of the connectors to one of the first and second walls, by compressing such connector into frictional engagement within a connector formation in said one of the first and second walls, such that prior to placement of the block unit in a wall structure and forming any mortar joints with adjacent block units, the first and second walls are securely positioned with respect to one another as opposite faces of a discrete, substantially rectangular block placeable as a unit with said mortar joints and with the connective structure being free of direct, structural connection to any wall of each adjacent block unit when the block unit is in a wall structure.

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43. (New) A method of making a block unit as claimed in claim 42 wherein each of the at least two connectors is an insert-type connector and the step of connecting each of the connectors to each of the first and second walls comprises matingly engaging the insert-type connector in a connector formation.

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44. (New) The block unit of claim 43, wherein the connector formation is a receptacle and the step of connecting each of the insert-type connectors comprises inserting the connector into the receptacle, such that the insert-type connector is frictionally engaged by the receptacle.

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45. (New) The method of claim 43, further comprising providing a center form and attaching to the connective structure a center form supported on the connective structure.

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46. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the step of providing a connective structure comprises providing a center arm and the step of connecting comprises installing such center arm between and flush with a top surface of the first and second walls.

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47. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the step of providing a connective structure comprises producing a connective structure of a plastic material.

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48. (New) The method of claim 42, further comprising providing on the connective structure a partition that forms a first cavity with the first wall and a second cavity with the second wall.

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49. (New) The method of claim 42, further comprising providing on the connective structure an insulating element of a size substantially equal to the area of the first wall or the second wall.

REMARKS

1. Status of Claims

Claims 1-15, 17-21, 24, 35, 38, 40 and 41 remain under consideration. All are subject to various rejections as set forth in the Office Action of May 13, 2002. Applicant thanks Examiner